

## Treating Pruning Wounds

In the past, most authorities recommended that the wounds caused by pruning be painted with a wound dressing. Recent research, however, has shown that this is unnecessary, except in areas where oak wilt disease is a problem. For oak wilt occurrence and special treatment recommendations contact your local extension agent or forester.

**Treating Wounds** Wounds on trees should be treated as soon after discovery as possible. First, all dead and loose bark, wood splinters, and ragged edges should be removed (figure 2, item 4). Then the wound should be trimmed to an elliptical shape, pointed at the top and bottom (figure 2, item 5). This shape has been found to be most efficient for eliminating water pockets in the wound and promotes healing. Remove any protruding wood inside the wound and smooth out the wound surface. Again, no wound dressing or paint is needed except in oak wilt areas. The wound will heal with time.

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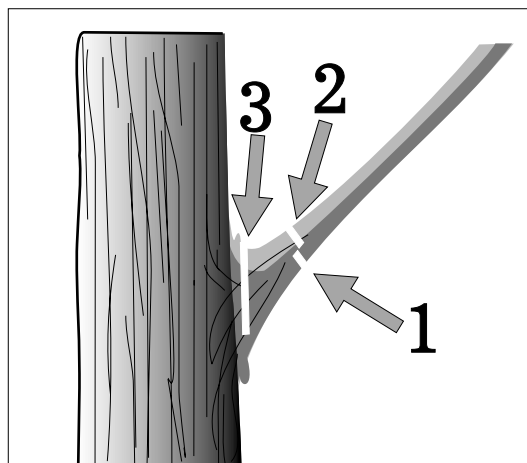


Figure 1

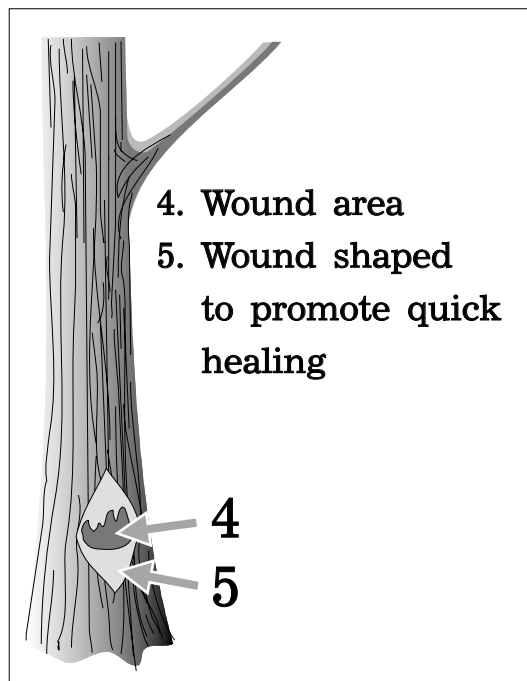


Figure 2



Secretary  
Wayne McDevitt



Governor  
James B. Hunt Jr.,

#1

# Forest Health Bulletin



## Pruning Trees and Treating Wounds